THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. As a significant step towards further liberalization of foreign exchange facilities available to individual residents, the RBI has permitted a person resident in India, to open, hold and maintain with an Authorized Dealer in India a Foreign Currency Account known as Resident Foreign Currency (Domestic) Account. Foreign Exchange acquired from any of the following sources can be kept in this account by Residents:

(i) while on visit to any place outside India by way of payment for services not arising from any business in-or anything done in India; or

(ii) from any person not resident in India and who is on a visit to India, as honorarium or gift or for services rendered or in settlement of any lawful obligation; or

(iii) by way of honorarium or gift while on a visit to any place outside India; or

(iv) represents the unspent amount of foreign exchange acquired by him from an authorized person for travel abroad.

This new facility is in addition to the existing facility of retaining US$2000 or its equivalent in the form of currency notes and/or foreign currency travellers cheques. The balance in Resident Foreign currency (Domestic) account may be used for any purpose permissible under the current foreign exchange regulations for resident Indians (e.g. travel, medical treatment abroad, gifts upto US$ 5000, purchase of books directly or through the internet, education abroad, etc.)

There is no limit on balances kept in Resident Foreign Currency (Domestic) Account. This account will be maintained in the form of a current account only with cheque facility.

Efficiency of Commercial Banks

†*395. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that efficiency in the working of commercial banks has declined during the period from 1996-97 to 2001 -2002;

(b) if not, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) the total turnover of banks during the above period year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No Sir. Public sector banks have maintained a steady growth in their aggregate deposits, advances and profits during the period 1996-97 to 2001-2002.

(c) The total turnover (deposits and advances) of the public sector banks during the years 1996-97 to 2001-2002, year-wise, is given below:—

Year	Turnover (Rs. in cr.)
1996-97	66,9598
1997-98	79,1370
1998-99	93,4210
1999-2000	113,9422
2000-2001	127,4005
2001-2002	144,9430

Allocation of Oilfields

†*396. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified the total area having oil reserves in the country so that they be alloted for oil production under the new petroleum policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total reserves of oil and gas available in the said oil sectors; and

(c) the number of oilfields allotted to private and public sectors for production so far and their oil production capacity per day?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Oil and gas occur in sedimentary areas

† Oriainal notice of the Question was received in Hindi.